

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 12133

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, JA

SUBJ: JAPANESE POSITION ON FRIENDLY RESOLUTION

SUMMARY: CONTRARY TO IMPRESSION GIVEN BY RECENT PRESS REPORTS OF CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN FONMIN MIYAZAWA AND AMBASSADOR SAITO, GOJ SUPPORT FOR FRIENDLY RESOLUTION REMAINS WHOEHEARTED. FONOFF BELIEVES THROUGH, THAT SUPPORT FOR FRIENDLY RESOLUTION AND ACTIVE WORLDWIDE CAMPAIGN FOR BACKERS ARE COMPATIBLE WITH SEARCH FOR DIALOGUE WITH SUPPORTERS OF HOSTILE RESOLUTION. WE DISAGREE. AT SUGGESTION OF JAPANESE SIDE, FONOFF AND EMBASSY WILL DISCUSS THIS AND OTHER UN QUESTIONS AT DCM-DIRECTOR GENERAL LEVEL SEPTEMBER 2. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT MIGHT WISH TO PROVIDE, IN PREPARATION FOR MEETING. END SUMMARY.

1. TOKYO PRESS AUGUST 28 AND 29 (TOKYO SHIMBUN, YOMIURI, AND JAPAN TIMES) HAVE REPORTED SHIFT IN GOJ STANCE ON FRIENDLY RESOLUTION AT UNGA. RESULT OF AUGUST 27 CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN FONMIN MIYAZAWA AND AMBASSADOR SAITO, REPORTS SAY, WAS DECISION TO CONTINUE BACKING FRIENDLY RESOLUTION "OFFICIALLY", AND "TO SOME EXTENT", BUT TO SEEK "CONSTRUCTIVE COMPROMISE" BEHIND SCENES AT UN IN DIALOGUE WITH SUPPORTERS OF HOSTILE RESOLUTION. CONFIDENTIAL

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2. ASKED TO COMMENT, FONOFF UN "P DIVDIR KOBAYASHI TERMED REPORTS DISTORTED AND EXAGGERATED THOUGH "NOT PRODUCT OF PURE IMAGINATION". KOBAYASHI HAD ATTENDED CONSULTATIONS AND WAS SURE NO INSTRUCTIONS FOR ANY

"BACKSTAIRS COMPROMISE" HAD BEEN GIVEN SAITO. JAPANESE HAVE NO PRETENSIONS ABOUT BEING ABLE TO ACHIEVE COMPROMISE NOR ANY ILLUSIONS ABOUT HOW DIFFICULT THIS WOULD BE. HAD SOME KIND OF COMPROMISE OR CONSENSUS SEEMED FEASIBLE, GOJ WOULD HAVE ADVOCATED IT AND WORKED FOR IT BEFORE. HOWEVER, THESE CONSIDERATIONS, KOBAYASHI CONTINUED, DIMINISH NEITHER JAPANESE DESIRE TO AVOID CONFRONTATION ON HOSTILE RESOLUTION, NOR HOPE THAT TWO SIDES CAN BE BROUGHT TO THE CONFERENCE TABLE FOR DISCUSSIONS OF SOME SORT. AS FONMIN HAD TOLD LOWER HOUSE CABINET COMMITTEE ON AUG 26, FRIENDLY RESOLUTION ITSELF CONTAINS CALL FOR DIALOGUE AND AGREEMENT BETWEEN DISPUTANTS.

3. MOST MISLEADING OF THE POINTS IN PRESS REPORTS, ACCORDING TO KOBAYASHI, WAS IMPLICATION THAT GOJ WOULD ONLY PAY LIP SERVICE TO FRIENDLY RESOLUTION. GOJ DIAGREES MOST EMPHATICALLY WITH PRESS NOTION THAT SUPPORT FOR RESOLUTION INCOMPATIBLE WITH SEARCH FOR DIALOGUE, AND LOSES NO OPPORTUNITY TO TELL PRESS THIS. LOGICALLY, COMPROMISE POSSIBLE ONLY IF FRIENDLY SIDE IS AS STRONG AS POSSIBLE, AND JAPAN WILL WORK VIGOROUSLY WORLDWIDE TO GAIN SUPPORT FOR THE ROK RESOLUTION.

4. KOBAYASHI CLOSED BY STATING THAT NEW UN BUREAU DIRECTOR GENERAL OKAWA WOULD APPRECIATE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH DCM AND POLCOUNS FOR DISCUSSIONS OF THIS ISSUE AND RELATED MATTERS SUCH AS AMBASSADOR SAITO'S PRESS CONFERENCE. APPOINTMENT NOW TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 2.

5. COMMENT: WE ARE CONCERNED THAT THE JAPANESE MAY BE SLIDING AWAY FROM US ON THE QUESTION OF HOW THE KOREAN ISSUE SHOULD BE HANDLED IN THE UN. SUPPORT FOR A CONSENSUS APPROACH IS FUNDAMENTAL TO THEIR WAY OF SOLVING PROBLEMS, BUT IS LESS RELEVANT, IN OUR VIEW, TO THE WORKINGS OF THE UNITED NATIONS THAN THE ADVERSARY PROCEEDING WHICH IS OUR TRADITION. JAPANESE CONFIDENTIAL

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USE TERM "CONSENSUS" IN ITS BROADEST CONTEXT, OVERLOOKING DANGER OF CONFUSING LISTENERS WHO THINK OF WORD IN CONNECTION WITH NARROW HISTORICAL UN CONEXT.

6. IN UPCOMING DISCUSSIONS, WE WILL TRY TO FIND OUT MORE PRECISELY WHAT GOJ HAS IN MIND. WE PLAN TO MAKE ABOVE POINTS AND TO EMPHASIZE OUR VIEW THAT ANY SEARCH FOR ALTERNATIVES TO FRIENDLY RESOLUTION AT THIS POINT WEAKENS WORLDWIDE CAMPAIGN TO GAIN SUPPORT FOR IT. SEARCH FOR DIALOGUE IS IN FACT INCOMPATIBLE WITH EFFECTIVE SUPPORT FOR THE RESOLUTION, AT LEAST FOR TIME BEING. ONCE RESOLUTION PASSED, EFFORTS TO START DIALOGUE MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE, BUT NOT UNTIL THEN.

7. IF DEPARTMENT WISHES TO CHANGE OR ADD T OUR APPROACH,
EMBASSY WOUL APPRECIATE GUIDANCE.
HODGSON

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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